ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

AMENDING DIVISION 1 OF TITLE 8, SECTION 16

REGARDING FEE FOR REMOVING AND KEEPING DEAD BODIES

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange, California ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8-1-16 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 8-1-16. Fee for Removing and Keeping Dead Bodies

(a) Whenever the Sheriff-Coroner takes custody of a dead body pursuant to law, the Sheriff-Coroner shall charge and collect from the person entitled to control the disposition of the remains, as specified in section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code, a fee of three-hundred fifty-eight dollars ($358) for removing the body from the place of death and keeping the body until its release to the person responsible for its interment. Said fee shall not be charged in any of the following circumstances:

(1) The person entitled to control the disposition of the remains claims and proves to be indigent;

(2) The body is that of a child not more than fourteen (14) years of age; or

(3) The Sheriff-Coroner ascribes the death to the criminal act of another unless the Sheriff-Coroner has reasonable grounds to believe that the deceased was involved in any criminal activity which contributed to his or her own death.

(b) The fee authorized by this section, if not paid, shall be considered a part of the funeral expenses and paid as a preferred charge against the estate of the decedent, pursuant to section 27472 of the Government Code.

(c) All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the County treasury.”

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